



USDA EGG MARKET NEWS REPORT

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NATIONAL EGG MARKET AT-A-GLANCE



Prices in New York were 5 cents lower on extra large and large but were unchanged on mediums when compared to the previous day's values. The market tone was barely steady to mostly weak. Demand was light to instances good, best in areas where severe winter weather stimulated additional interest at retail outlets. Supplies were in close balance to available for full trade needs. Breaking stock offerings were adequate to tight for the light to fairly good demand. Light type hens were generally sufficient for the moderate demand. Slaughter schedules were reduced due to the approaching holiday.

Prices to retailers, sales to volume buyers, USDA Grade A and Grade A, White eggs in cartons, delivered warehouse, cents per dozen.

MIDWEST REGIONAL Prices to producers in IA-MN-WI were 4 cents lower for large and 2 cents lower for mediums, with the balance of prices unchanged. Trade sentiment was barely steady to mostly weak. Retail demand was in a full range of light to very good while loose egg demand was reported as light to moderate. Heavy snowfall in portions of the Midwest have increased retail shell egg inquiries in those locations. Floor stocks were balanced to adequate. Central states breaking stock prices were unchanged. Offerings were closely balanced to tight with demand moderate to fairly good for future needs. Supplies tight to fully adequate. Trade sentiment mostly steady.

	RANGE	MOSTLY	Prices paid to producers.
EXTRA LARGE	64-74	65-71	IA-MN-WI - RANGE MOSTLY
LARGE	63-73	64-67	LARGE 38-46 41
MEDIUM	32-42	34-37	MEDIUM 12-17 15
Midwest Area: IA, IL, IN, KY, MI, MN, OH, NE, ND, SD, WI, WV, western NY & western PA .			
			SMALL 4-6

NORTHEAST REGIONAL Prices were unchanged, however asking prices for next week's deliveries were trending lower. Trade sentiment was unsettled to weak entering the weekend. Demand into all channels was light to good, mostly moderate. Supplies were adequate to available for trade requirements. Breaking stock offerings were irregular but usually sufficient for reduced holiday processing schedules. Light type hens were generally sufficient for the moderate demand.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
EXTRA LARGE	71-85	73-77
LARGE	66-80	71-75
MEDIUM	35-48	40-42

Northeast Area: CT, DC, MA, MD, ME, NH, eastern NJ, eastern NY, PA, RI, Northern VA, & VT.

SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL Prices unchanged. Trade sentiment was barely steady to weak. Retail demand mixed, slow to very good with winter weather conditions stimulating additional activity. Food service movement was moderate. Supplies were in close balance to available for current needs. Central States breaking stock prices were unchanged. Offerings were closely balance to tight for the moderate to fairly good demand. Supplies tight to fully adequate. Schedules full-time to part-time. Trade sentiment mostly steady.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
EXTRA LARGE	74.5-83	76-79
LARGE	73.5-82	75-78
MEDIUM	38.5-47	40-43

South Central Area: AR, AZ, CO, KS, LA, MO, MN, OK & TX.

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL Prices were unchanged, although all sizes were trending sharply lower. The market tone was barely steady to weak. Demand into all outlets was light to at times fairly good. Supplies were adequate to available for current trade needs. Breaking stock offerings were generally sufficient for the light to occasionally moderate demand. Breaking schedules were reduced due to the upcoming holiday. Light type hens were generally adequate for the moderate demand. Processing schedules were less than normal.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
EXTRA LARGE	66-79	73-76
LARGE	64-77	71-74
MEDIUM	37.5-45	38-42

Southeast Area: AL, FL, GA, MNS, NC, SC, eastern TN & southern VA.

Prices to retailers, sales to volume buyers, USDA Grade A and Grade A, White eggs in cartones, delivered store door, cents per dozen.

CHICAGO AND MIDWEST Prices for all sizes are unchanged . The market tone was barely steady to weak. Retail and food service demand was light to moderate, instances good when featured. Supplies are adequate.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
EXTRA LARGE	71-79	73-75
LARGE	70-75	71-74
MEDIUM	41-48	42-44

Midwest Area: IA, IL, IN, KY, MI, MN, OH, NE, ND, SD, WI, WV, western NY, and western PA

NEW YORK Prices were 5 cents lower on extra large and large, unchanged on medium when compared to the previous day's prices. Trade sentiment was barely steady to weak entering the long holiday weekend. Demand ranged light to instances good. Supplies were adequate to available for present trade needs.

	RANGE
EXTRA LARGE	66-70
LARGE	64-68
MEDIUM	43-47

WESTERN Prices were unchanged. The market tone was very weak. Asking prices for next week 12 cents lower on jumbo, 14 cents lower on extra large, 16 cents lower on large and 4 cents lower on medium throughout the region. Retailer was moderate to good. Offerings fully adequate overall.

CALIFORNIA EGGS Prices unchanged. The market tone was weak with asking prices for next week 12 cents lower on jumbo, 14 cents lower on extra large, 16 cents lower on large and 4 cents lower on medium and smalls. Retailer demand was fairly good overall. Offerings adequate to ample. Small benchmark price 55. Ads in Southern California: Major - large 18 pack 2 for \$3; smaller outlets - extra large 20 count 2 for \$5 and extra large dozen 88, medium 20 count 99.

CALIFORNIA: California Egg Marketing Association and other marketers benchmark price for negotiated egg sales of USDA Grade AA and Grade AA in cartons, cents per dozen. This price does not reflect discounts or other contract terms.

	RANGE
JUMBO	116
EXTRA LARGE	114
LARGE	107
MEDIUM	75

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA:

PRICES TO RETAILERS, SALES TO VOLUME BUYERS, USDA GRADE AA AND GRADE AA, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, DELIVERED STORE DOOR, CENTS PER DOZEN.

	RANGE
JUMBO	98-105
EXTRA LARGE	96-102
LARGE	94-97
MEDIUM	62-65

PRICES TO CONSUMERS MAJOR CHAINS, METROPOLITAN AREA, USDA GRADE AA AND GRADE AA, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, CENTS PER DOZEN.

	RANGE
JUMBO	249-269
EXTRA LARGE	219-289
LARGE	199-239
MEDIUM	189-205

CENTRAL REGION BREAKING STOCK Prices were unchanged. Offerings were closely balanced to tight with demand moderate to fairly good for future needs. Supplies tight to fully adequate. Schedules full-time to part-time. Trade sentiment mostly steady.

Prices in cents per dozen, delivered to breakers, 48 lb. minimum net weight per 30 dozen case, eggs from table egg layers. Packaging may vary.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
BREAKING STOCK	25-30	
CHECKS & UNDERGRADES	12-16	13-15
CENTRAL STATES AREA: AR,CO,IA,IL,IN,KS,LA,MI,MN,MO,NM,ND,NE,OH,OK,SD,TX,WI		

EASTERN REGION BREAKING STOCK Mostly prices were unchanged when compared to early week trading. The undertone was usually steady. However, trade sentiment was mixed and in a range of some softness to occasionally strength. Demand was light to occasionally moderate. Offerings were irregular but usually sufficient for seasonal holiday reduced schedules. Cases broken under federal inspection in the Eastern region for the week ending 18-Dec-2004 were 2% less than the previous week, and 7% less than a week earlier.

Prices in cents per dozen, delivered to breakers, 48 lb. minimum net weight per 30 dozen case, eggs from table egg layers. Packaging may vary.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
BREAKING STOCK	24-29	26-28
CHECKS & UNDERGRADES	12-18	13-16
EASTERN REGION AREA: AL,CT,DE,FL,GA,KY,ME,MD,MA,MS,NH,NJ,NY,NC,PA,RI,SC,TN,VT,VA,WV		

EGGS PROCESSED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION - W/E 18-DEC-04 (LBS IN THOUSANDS) (EXCLUDES INGREDIENTS)

	CASES BROKEN	LIQUID WHOLE	LIQUID WHITE	LIQUID YOLK	DRIED	INED
CW	1,243,491	29,563	12,245	6,752	2,554	4,502
PW	1,286,728	31,959	11,639	6,655	2,188	4,522
LY	1,208,513	30,297	10,722	5,990	2,243	4,112
% CHG PW	-3	-7	5	1	17	0
% CHG LY	3	-2	14	13	14	9
2004	62,065,004	1,478,118	596,186	322,570	132,429	213,707
2003	58,514,591	1,441,463	525,877	286,275	113,435	208,992
% CHG YTD	6	3	13	13	17	2
	CURRENT		PREVIOUS	LAST		
AVERAGE YIELD PER CASE -	WEEK		WEEK	YEAR		
(INEDIBLE INCLUDED)	42.67		42.57	42.30		
(INEDIBLE EXCLUDED)	39.05		39.05	38.90		

NATIONAL LIQUID Pasteurized salt yolk reported at 43 to 46 cents fob with no pasteurized whites reported. Trade sentiment was mostly steady for all liquid products. Demand was seasonally light on spot sales of all liquid products with offerings adequate to fully adequate for whole egg and adequate on the balance. Breaking stock prices were irregular when compared to last week.

Prices paid cents per lb., FOB Plant to 10:00 AM non-pasteurized trucklot. For delivery within 14 days.

CLASS	LOADS	RANGE	WTD. AVG.	CHANGE FROM LAST WEEK
WHOLE	3	25.5-28	26.33	-.50
WHITES	10	25.5-26.5	26.10	-.34
YOLKS	6	49-51	50.00	-.31

EASTERN REGION FROZEN Majority prices were unchanged when compared to the previous week's trading. Trade sentiment was about steady on whole and generally steady on other items. Supplies were balanced to adequate for trade needs. Demand was seasonal but noted as light to moderate. Liquid and frozen eggs (ingredients included) processed under federal inspection in the Eastern region for the week ending 18-Dec-2004 were 2% less than the previous week, and 6% less than last year.

Wholesale selling prices (cents per lb. in 30 lb containers)

	TRUCKLOTS RANGE	MOSTLY	LTL (MIN. 25 CONT.) RANGE
WHOLE	36-42	37-39	44-48
BLENDS (/)	TFEWR		60-80
WHITES	39-44	41-44	47-52
SUGARED YOLKS (MIN 43% SOLIDS)	55-60	56-60	63-67
SALTED YOLKS (MIN 43% SOLIDS)	53-58	55-57	58-65
(/) - Whole plus yolk plus sweetener, generally 20-32% egg solids.			

CENTRAL REGION FROZEN Prices ranged unchanged with the exception of frozen whites which were unchanged to 1 cent higher. Trade sentiment was steady for whole egg and whites and cautiously steady for frozen sugared and salted yolk. Offerings were in a full range of tight to fully adequate with demand quiet as most operators slow for the approaching holiday. Frozen processors needing to build inventory were using this week to catch up. Breaking stock prices were irregular when compared to last week's reported prices.

Wholesale selling prices (cents per lb. in 30 lb. containers)

TRUCKLOTS	RANGE	MOSTLY
WHOLE	37-41	37-38
WHITES	42-44	42
SUGARED YOLKS (MIN 43% SOLIDS)	56-60	57-59
SALTED YOLKS (MIN 43% SOLIDS)	54-57	55

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FROZEN Prices were unchanged. Southern California breaking activity for the week ending 12/18 was 4% less than the previous week. Frozen demand was seasonally good with freezer stocks adequate overall.

Wholesale selling prices, f.o.b. shipping point (cents per lb. in 30 lb. containers)

	LTL (MIN. 25 CONT.) RANGE
WHOLE	43-46
WHITES	47-50
SUGARED YOLKS (MIN 43% SOLIDS)	63-66
SALTED YOLKS (MIN 43% SOLIDS)	61-64

NATIONAL DRIED EGG Mostly prices were unchanged to slightly lower on yolks, unchanged on blends, unchanged to higher on whole and irregular on albumen when compared to a week earlier. Demand was light to good, mostly moderate. Supplies were reported as sufficient. Trade sentiment was steady on yolks and whole, and mixed on albumen. Dried eggs processed under federal inspection for the week ending 18-Dec-2004 were 17% more than the previous week, and 14% more than last year. The total year to date dried eggs produced were 17% higher than a year earlier.

Wholesale selling prices, dollars per lb., in containers, trucklot & less-than-trucklot volumes.

WHOLE	1.39-1.70	MOSTLY	1.48-1.58
YOLKS	1.33-1.48	MOSTLY	1.35-1.45
ALBUMEN, SPRAY, DRIED	2.56-3.12	MOSTLY	2.75-2.85
BLENDS (WHOLE PLUS SWEETENER)	1.35-1.70	MOSTLY	1.40-1.45

TRAILER LOAD EGG SALES* WEEKLY WTD AVG PRICES (CENTS/DOZ) NATIONAL TRADING FOR DEC 16 -22, 2004

CURRENT LOADS 92.00								FUTURE LOADS 46.50				TOTAL LOADS 138.50											
SE				NE				MW				SC				NW				SW			
CLASS	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	LOADS	CLASS	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	LOADS								
GNR W 1	48.00	50.50	47.00	48.45	60.50	47.00	17.00	GNR W 1	--	47.50	--	--	--	--	3.00								
GNR BR 1	--	61.50	--	--	--	--	3.00	GNR BR 1	--	--	--	--	--	--	1.00								
GL W J	--	--	72.00	73.50	46.50	--	4.00	GL W J	--	--	--	--	--	61.00	2.00								
GL W XL	--	62.57	58.50	61.20	40.71	48.50	30.00	GL W XL	45.66	58.31	--	--	--	54.41	16.50								
GL W LG	--	61.84	--	--	58.46	--	17.00	GL W LG	44.20	51.80	--	73.00	--	49.15	15.75								
GL W MD	34.00	32.60	24.00	25.00	27.00	27.00	12.75	GL W MD	27.00	30.00	--	--	--	34.60	5.25								
GL W SM	23.67	26.00	21.33	23.17	--	--	6.00	NRBS - 39	15.00	17.00	--	--	20.00	21.00	1.50								
NRBS - 48	--	--	24.25	25.75	25.84	27.83	51.00																
NRBS - 39	--	--	21.25	23.14	18.00	20.00	10.00																

*Weighted average prices are listed for various classed priced by origin and/or destination for 6 regions. The loads column reflects total loads reported and includes loads with prices to be determined later. NRBS categories represent net weight-material may or may not be included. Load movement represents total movement within 6 regions.

LIGHT TYPE HENS

CENTS PER HEAD, GENERALLY FOR REMOVAL
WITHIN THE NEXT 10 DAYS

(INCLUDES HANDLING, FREIGHT AND ANY OTHER
CHARGES, WEIGHTS AVERAGE ABOUT 3.50 POUNDS)

EASTERN REGION LIGHT LIVE HENS Prices were unchanged when compared to a week ago. Demand was moderate with offerings of spent hens generally sufficient for current trade needs. Processing schedules were less than normal. Opinions on removal costs were steady.

	RANGE	MAJORITY
REMOVAL COST	5-9	7-9

SOUTH CENTRAL LIGHT LIVE HENS Values were too few to report. Demand was moderate for at least adequate offerings of spent hens. Schedules were reduced. Finished sales were fair at best. Costs required for disposal were expected to remain constant.

	RANGE	MAJORITY
REMOVAL COST	TOO FEW TO REPORT	

NORTH CENTRAL LIGHT LIVE HENS Prices were unchanged. Offerings were adequate with demand moderate. Schedules reduced this week and mostly full-time for next week. Trade sentiment steady.

	RANGE	MAJORITY
REMOVAL COST	0-5	2-5

WEST COAST LIGHT Plants worked compressed Holiday slaughter schedules. Demand was generally good. Offerings in fair balance with current needs.

COMBINED REGIONAL SHELL EGGS

Average prices on sales to volume buyers, Grade A Large or better, White eggs in cartons, delivered warehouse, cents per dozen.

REGIONS	EX LARGE	LARGE	MEDIUM
NORTHEAST	75.00	73.00	41.00
SOUTHEAST	74.50	72.50	40.00
MIDWEST	68.00	65.50	35.50
SOUTH CENTRAL	77.50	76.50	41.50
COMBINED REGIONAL	73.90	72.08	39.57
COMPUTED FROM SIMPLE WEEKLY AVERAGES WEIGHTED BY REGIONAL AREA POPULATIONS			

NATIONAL CANNER FOWL MARKET Trading was too few to report on heavy canners; unchanged on lights when compared to a week earlier. Demand was ranged fair to good for both light and heavy canners with most available supplies of heavies being used internally. Offerings were about adequate and well cleared. Processing schedules were reduced due to the holiday. Trade sentiment was at least steady to fully steady.

CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, WITHOUT FREIGHT COST

LIGHT CANNER HENS (LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS)	HEAVY CANNER HENS (WITHOUT NECKS)
28-32 MAJORITY 28-30	TOO FEW SALES TO REPORT
CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, FREIGHT COST INCLUDED	
LIGHT CANNER HENS (LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS)	HEAVY CANNER HENS (WITHOUT NECKS)
29-34 MAJORITY 30-34	TOO FEW SALES TO REPORT

U.S./Canadian Live Poultry Slaughtered Under Inspection

W/E 18-Dec-04 (PRELIMINARY)

U.S. FOWL SLAUGHTERED DOMESTICALLY

	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS
	THOUSANDS		
Head	1,499	1,462	2,961
Last Week	1,534	1,403	2,937
Same week yr ago	1,340	1,509	2,849
To-date/2004	68,411	68,047	136,458
To-date/2003	70,798	70,184	140,982

U.S. FOWL SLAUGHTERED IN CANADA

	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS
	THOUSANDS		
Head	292	0	292
Last Week	333	11	344
Same week yr ago	192	4	196
To-date/2004	12,316	148	12,464
To-date/2003	10,776	148	10,924

Data Source: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, AISD, AID, Poultry Section

TOTAL U.S. FOWL SLAUGHTERED IN THE U.S. AND CANADA

	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS
	THOUSANDS		
Head	1,791	1,462	3,253
Last Week	1,867	1,414	3,281
Same week yr ago	1,532	1,513	3,045
To-date/2004	80,727	68,195	148,922
To-date/2003	81,574	70,332	151,906

Source: USDA/AMS Poultry Programs, Market News Branch

Inspected Egg Products-U.S. & Canada Export/Import Trade**U.S. Exports to Canada, in Pounds (000) (Preliminary)**

Week Ending December 11, 2004		Year-To-Date		
TYPE	2004	2003 1/	2004 2/	2003
Liquid	388	358	18,457	16,581
Frozen	0	0	36	96
Dried	40	0	856	551
Total	428	358	19,349	17,228

U.S. Imports From Canada, in Pounds (000) (Preliminary)

Week Ending December 11, 2004		Year-To-Date		
TYPE	2004	2003 1/	2004 2/	2003
Liquid	86	62	7,556	5,137
Frozen	5	95	1,524	3,699
Dried	0	40	2,113	1,251
Total	91	197	11,193	10,087

Inspected Shell Eggs**U.S Exports To Canada, In 30-Dozen Cases (Preliminary)**

Week Ending December 11, 2004		Year-To-Date		
TYPE	2004	2003 1/	2004 2/	2003
Jumbo	0	33	392	603
Extra Large	15,266	2,940	182,513	39,128
Large	22,463	6,430	359,944	142,703
Medium	4,220	2,432	122,094	64,987
Ungraded	4,776	1,560	327,197	184,952
Misc	0	0	16,790	14,222
Total	46,725	13,395	1,008,930	446,595

1/ Comparable Week, to-date figures may not total due to rounding.

2/ Includes revisions to previous week(s).

Data Source: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, AISD, AID, Poultry Section

Source: USDA/AMS Poultry Programs, Market News Branch.

COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS - Selected Centers

(INCL GOVT STOCKS) (IN THOUSANDS)		Processed other	
	Frozen Eggs/LBS	Turkeys/LBS	Poultry/LBS
AM 12/20/04	3,530	56,616	59,164
AM 12/01/04	3,806	66,595	60,214
CHG	-276	-9979	-1050
PCT CHG	-7%	-15%	-2%

MONTHLY COLD STORAGE REPORT

(In Units of 1,000)

	31-Oct	31-Oct	30-Nov	30-Nov
FROZEN EGGS:	2003	2004	2003	2004
Whites	2,653	2,888	2,654	2,955
Yolks	1,050	1,321	843	1,028
Whole & Mixed	9,916	10,052	8,290	10,129
Unclassified	3,235	3,616	3,122	3,123
Total Frozen Eggs	16,854	17,877	14,909	17,235

NEW ENGLAND WEEKLY SHELL EGG REPORT

Dec 21, 2004

PRICES PAID PER DOZEN GRADE A BROWN EGGS IN CARTONS
DELIVERED STORE DOOR.

	EXTRA LARGE	LARGE	MEDIUM	SMALL
MAINE	122	120	68	45
MOSTLY	-	-	-	-
NEW HAMPSHIRE	112-116	111-115	61-65	38-42
MOSTLY	114-115	113-114	63-64	40-41
RHODE ISLAND	119-123	117-121	67-71	44-48
MOSTLY	119	117	67	44
VERMONT	117-122	116-120	68-69	-
MOSTLY	117	116	68	-

MOVEMENT OF EGGS INTO RETAIL CHANNELS

W/E 18-Dec-2004

Selected	CW	LW	PERCENT CHANGE	
Consuming Centers	(Thousands)		LW	LY
ATLANTA	28.8	26.4	9	-13
BOSTON	3.4	3.1	11	-15
CHICAGO	65.8	60.0	10	3
DETROIT	27.6	36.2	-24	-13
KANSAS CITY	5.3	4.2	24	-10
LOS ANGELES	89.3	88.1	1	-5
NEW ORLEANS	6.7	8.8	-23	-34
NEW YORK	36.9	31.8	16	2
ST. LOUIS	24.2	18.2	33	0
SAN FRANCISCO	21.4	20.1	7	-23
TOTAL	309.5	297.0	4	-4
4 WK MOVING AVG	298.3			

COMMERCIAL EGG MOVEMENT

(Receipts From Producers)

W/E 18-Dec-04	CASES	PERCENT CHANGE FROM	
REGIONS	(IN THOUS)	PW	LY
North Atlantic	265.1	-1	26
East North Central	629.6	5	5
West North Central	297.9	4	-4
South Atlantic	233.8	-3	19
South Central	72.1	0	3
West	191	-3	3
Total	1689.5	2	7

Matched Plants reporting Previous week 86 Last year 85

Areas Covered: North Atlantic (ME,VT,MA,RI,CT,NH,NY,PA,NJ,MC,DE)

East North Central (WI,IL,MI,OH,IN) West North Central (IA,MN,MO,KS,SD)

South Atlantic (SC,NC,VA,GA,FL,KY) South Central (TN,AL,AR,MS,OK)

West (CA,CO,WA,OR,UT)

CHICKENS AND EGGS**November Egg Production Up 2 Percent**

U.S. egg production totaled 7.46 billion during November 2004, up 2 percent from last year. Production included 6.42 billion table eggs, and 1.04 billion hatching eggs, of which 980 million were broiler-type and 59 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during November 2004 averaged 343 million, up 2 percent from a year earlier.

November egg production per 100 layers was 2,170 eggs, up slightly from November 2003.

November 2004 contained 22 weekdays, 4 Saturdays and 2 holidays compared to November 2003 contained 20 weekdays, 5 Saturdays and 2 holidays.

All layers in the U.S. on December 1, 2004, totaled 343 million, up 1 percent from a year ago. The 343 million layers consisted of 285 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 54.9 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.51 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on December 1, 2004, averaged 72.8 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 6.98 billion eggs during November 2004, up 2 percent from a year ago. The average number of layers during November, at 321 million, was up 2 percent from a year ago.

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